

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To provide that the Federal Communications Commission may not prevent a State or Federal correctional facility from utilizing jamming equipment, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. COTTON introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To provide that the Federal Communications Commission may not prevent a State or Federal correctional facility from utilizing jamming equipment, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Cellphone Jamming  
5       Reform Act of 2019”.

6       **SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON FCC AUTHORITY.**

7       (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

## 2

1           (1) the term “Commission” means the Federal  
2       Communications Commission;

3           (2) the term “correctional facility” means a jail,  
4       prison, penitentiary, or other correctional facility;  
5       and

6           (3) the term “jamming system”—

7                (A) means a system of radio signal gener-  
8                ating and processing equipment and antennas  
9                designed to disrupt, prevent, interfere with, or  
10              jam a wireless communication into, from, or  
11              within a correctional facility; and

12              (B) includes the components and  
13              functionality of a system described in subpara-  
14              graph (A), such as—

15                   (i) antennas, cabling, and cable ele-  
16                   ments;

17                   (ii) the installation, interconnection,  
18                   and operation of system elements, power  
19                   levels, and radio frequencies carried on the  
20                   cables or fed into antennas;

21                   (iii) the radiation pattern of the an-  
22                   tennas; and

23                   (iv) the location and orientation of the  
24                   antennas.

25       (b) RESTRICTION.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
2           provision of law or regulation, and subject to para-  
3           graph (2), the Commission may not prevent a State  
4           or Federal correctional facility from operating a  
5           jamming system within the correctional facility to  
6           prevent, jam, or otherwise interfere with a wireless  
7           communication that is sent—

8                   (A) to or from a contraband device in the  
9           facility; or

10                   (B) by or to an individual held in the facil-  
11           ity.

12           (2) REQUIREMENTS.—With respect to a jam-  
13           ming system described in paragraph (1)—

14                   (A) the operation of the system shall be  
15           limited to the housing facilities of the correc-  
16           tional facility in which the system is located;

17                   (B) if the correctional facility that operates  
18           the system is a State correctional facility, the  
19           State that operates the correctional facility  
20           shall be responsible for funding the entire cost  
21           of the system, including the operation of the  
22           system; and

23                   (C) the correctional facility that operates  
24           the system shall—

- 1                   (i) before implementing the system,  
2                   consult with local law enforcement agencies  
3                   and other public safety officials in the area  
4                   in which the facility is located; and  
5                   (ii) submit to the Director of the Bu-  
6                   reau of Prisons a notification regarding  
7                   that operation.